## MAILS—DELAY IN TRANSPORT OF

**34. Mr. C. V. Iyyu** *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the motor buses which carry Anchal or Postal mails have been suspended from plying for offences under the Motor Vehicles Act;

(*b*) if so, whether the Government has made any provision for the timely despatch of mails;

(*c*) whether there have been complaints from the Anchal Masters that there was undue delay in the transport of mails;

(*d*) if so, what steps the Government have taken to avoid such uncalled for delay?

**Mr. K. Achyuta Menon** *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes, in deserving cases.

(*b*) Yes. According to the agreement entered into by the mail contractors, they are to make adequate arrangements, in such contingencies, for the speedy despatch and delivery of mails at the scheduled timings.

(*c*) Yes. There has been one complaint of delay of about an hour.

(*d*) The stipulations laid down in the agreement will be strictly enforced in cases of such delays. This is enough to effect timely despatch and delivery of mails.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether these mail contractors are given any remuneration for the work they are doing?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The competition is so strong among mail contractors that we get some remuneration from them.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether this exploitation of competition prevailing among bus conductors is fair or moral on the part of the Government?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* It is a great privilege to carry mails and we cannot stop competition among these people.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Are they not doing a service to the Anchal Department?

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**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* In return we are also giving them this great privilege. They are given suitable timings and other privileges for which they pay. There is very great and regular competition for that.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* There will be competition. But what is the great privilege they are getting by carrying the mails? Is it simply for the honour?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* In fact, they get the biggest of advertisements on their bus—"Anchal Mail Service". That itself shows that they value it very much. People always flock to these buses, because they are very timely and they are generally good buses.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know what are the concessions they are given with regard to timings?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Most appropriate times in the early morning and just after the office hours and so on. They are also allowed to run a support bus, as it is called, just after forty minutes or an hour.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know, Sir, whether the Anchal Department is arranging these timings?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* With the concurrence of the Police Department.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* May I know, Sir, whether there is any instance where the bus people have been threatened that they will lose their timings if they do not take up mails?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* We are not aware of any such thing. We have no complaints of that sort.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* Is there any Government communication to any of the bus owners that their existing timings will be taken away if they do not carry mails?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* There has been no such orders. In fact, whenever bus contractors refuse to do it, we always allow their request.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* Are they permitted to continue their old timings after the refusal?

**Mr. President:** Obviously that cannot be done. The timings are given with a view to facilitate the taking of mails.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* May I know whether these timings are arranged according to seniority?

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**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* According to public convenience.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether this is not a unique practice in this State alone and that this practice does not prevail either in British India or Travancore?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* As a matter of fact, I know instances where in British India and in Travancore the bus contractors are paying to the Government. But it is not so general as here.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Is not that statement subject to correction?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* No. I know of some instances. But it is not so universal as is obtained here.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* In British India there are instances where they are paid by the Government?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

**Mr. C. R. Iyyunni** *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether tenders are called for?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes. We advertise in the Gazette and also intimate to the bus owners on the line.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* What is the basis or the principle on which the timings for buses are arranged? For instance, the best timings are given to certain people.

**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* The timings are given by taking into consideration the number of buses that are run on the line, the timings they want, public convenience, etc.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* That is to say, am I to take it that where two buses are already running in a particular line will a third man be entitled to get a more suitable time than the other two if he claims for it?

**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* It all depends on one's own whims and fancies. One man may consider a particular time as suitable while another may consider it as not suitable.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* If a bus contractor finds a suitable time and makes a request to Government to allow his bus to run at that time, will the Government agree to that request?

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**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* Timings are arranged by taking into consideration public convenience and without prejudice to the other buses running on the line.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* Am I to take it that Government have not been considering the question of seniority of these services in giving the timings?

**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* That also is taken into consideration. We will see if it is a regular service, whether its antecedents are good and things of that sort. But suppose a man has got a twenty-year old bus which will break down every hour of the day. Obviously in such cases seniority cannot be taken into consideration.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* All considerations being equal, do you attach any importance to seniority?

**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* Yes.

**Mr. M. K. Devassy** *(Adur):* My question now is whether this rule will be overlooked if they refuse to carry the mails?

**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* It all depends on the circumstances of each case.

**Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talapplli):* Are there any cases where the Police Department has changed the timings of buses without consultation with the Anchal Department?

**Rao Bahadur M. Narayana Menon** *(Commissioner of Police):* I am not aware.

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Neither am I.

**Mr. A. B. Salem** *(Mattancheri):* Do you get any payment from these people for doing this honorary service?

**Mr. P. V. Raphael** *(Joint Secretary to Government):* Yes.

## APPOINTMENTS BY STAFF SELECTION BOARD—OF NEW RECRUITS

**35. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan** *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether any persons, who were not in the list of acting hands published in the Gazette after the report of the Staff Selection Review Committee,

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